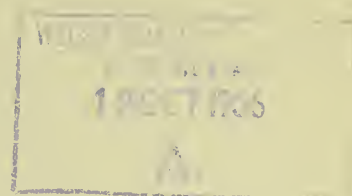


MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

For the year ended 31st December, 1955.




Medical Officer

Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Town Hall,
Newtown.

Sanitary Inspector

B. Brooks Evans, M.R.S.I.
Plas Machynlleth,
Machynlleth.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28857811>

MACHYNILETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman

Mr O.B. Jones

Members

Major R.H. Jones-Evans, M.B.E
Mr G.E. Evans.
Mr Llewelyn Jenkins.
Mr J.Ll. Pugh.
Mr Iorwerth Rowlands.
Mr J.T. Royles.
Mr T. Vaughan.
Mr Richard Micah.
Mr J.R. Owen.
Mr E.A. Jones.
Mr W.A. Ercese.
Mr R.L. Edwards.
Mr I.G. Owen.
Mr E.H. Barker.

STAFF

Medical Officer - Amelia Evans

Sanitary Inspector - B. Brooks Evans

Clerk to Sanitary Inspector - Rhiannon Lewis.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions for your district for the year 1955.

It is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 17/55 (Wales).

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The birth rate for 1955 was 15.22 per 1,000 population as compared with 10.15 per 1,000 in 1954.

The rate for the urban districts in the County was 15.53 per 1,000 and for the whole of the County this rate was 14.87 per 1,000 population.

There was 1 still birth, being 3.6% of live births and comparing with 5% in 1954. The rate for the urban districts was 2.2% and for the whole County 2.6%.

There were 2 illegitimate births being 6.9% of total births, compared with 4.8% in 1954. In the urban districts this rate was 4.6% and in the whole County 3.0%.

Infant Mortality

There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year, making a rate of 71 per 1,000 live births, compared with none in 1954, and compared with 25 per 1,000 live births in the urban districts and 28 per 1,000 in the whole County.

One death was in a female infant of 6 hours and was due to prematurity. The other was a male infant of 3 months and death was due to diarrhoea and vomiting. This rate is high, despite the care that is afforded to babies and every effort is made to try to prevent such a high infant mortality.

Deaths.

There were 25 deaths giving a rate of 13.59 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.59 in 1954.

In urban districts this rate was 12.70 and in the whole County 12.57 per 1,000 population.

There were 2 deaths due to tuberculosis. This gives a rate of 1,087 per 1,000,000 population, the rate for urban districts being 170 per 1,000,000 and for the County as a whole 177 per 1,000,000.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

Action was taken under this Section on one occasion. It was brought to the notice of the Council that an old gentleman was living alone under most unsatisfactory conditions. For a long time efforts were made to get this man to receive help from his relatives and even the provision of the Home Help Service was offered him. On two occasions his home was cleaned by the Council workmen but he constantly refused any offers of help. Consequently, an approach was made to the Magistrate's Court for an order to obtain his removal to Llanfyllin Home for the Aged and after the expiry of this Court Order, the man remained voluntarily at his home, where he was well cared for and received proper attention.

Housing

The Council had many setbacks in 1955 in their housing programme, primarily in regard to the approach road to their new housing site. However, these difficulties were ultimately overcome and work was commenced on the first part of a Scheme to provide 94 houses and it is hoped 25-30 will be completed in 1956.

The Council is well aware of the poor standard of houses in which many people are living in the town and it is their urgent desire to alleviate these conditions. In most instances this will be a fairly straightforward matter - the rehousing of families from substandard houses - but the Council must face its responsibility towards some families where there is gross overcrowding and insanitary and unhealthy conditions.

Public Conveniences

Many letters of complaint were received about the public conveniences at the Market Hall and the Council again had much difficulty, as it has had for many years, in fulfilling its decision to provide new conveniences. In the meantime, the present conveniences have been improved as much as they possibly can and will prove fairly satisfactory until the Council is enabled to proceed with the erection of new conveniences.

I would express my appreciation to the Council for the help given me in my endeavours to improve the conditions in this town.

The Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk are always ready and co-operative on many matters which I might care to raise with them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

AMELIA EVANS.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Area in acres	1,183	1,183
Population (Registrar General's Mid-year estimate)	1,840	1,860
Rateable Value	£9,316	£9,313
Sum represented by penny rate	£35,19s.5d.	£36,1s.2d.

Vital Statistics

(Based on Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Population)

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>1955</u>			<u>1954</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	9	17	26	9	10	19
Illegitimate	2	0	2	0	1	1
Total	11	17	28	9	11	20
Birth rate per 1,000 population:-						
Machynlleth		15.22			10.75	
Urban Districts		15.53			14.95	
Whole County		14.87			15.50	

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
1 legitimate female		None
Rate for Machynlleth (% of live births)	3.6%	0
Rate for Urban Districts	2.2%	2.6%
Rate for Whole County	2.6%	2.3%
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>

Infant Mortality

(Deaths of Infants under 1
year per 1,000 live births)

For Machynlleth ...	71	0
For Urban Districts	25	15
For Whole County	28	26

Deaths

	<u>1955</u>			<u>1954</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	10	15	25	13	16	29
Death rate per 1,000 population:-						
For Machynlleth		13.59			15.59	
For Urban Districts		12.70			11.81	
For Montgomeryshire		12.57			12.33	

AGE DISTRIBUTION AT DEATH (ALL CAUSES)

Age Group	<u>1955</u>			<u>1954</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	1	1	2	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 -	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 -	0	0	0	0	2	2
45 -	1	2	3	3	0	3
55 -	3	2	5	2	2	4
65 -	3	4	7	4	4	8
75 -	2	4	6	2	5	7
85 and over	0	2	2	2	3	5
TOTAL	10	15	25	13	16	29

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	1955			1954		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory tuberculosis	1	1	2	0	0	0
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	0	0	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	0	0	-	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	0	0	0	0	2	2
Leukaemia. eleukaemia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6	5	0	5
Coronary diseases angina	2	0	2	0	1	1
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1	0	1	1
Other heart disease	0	3	3	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	0	1	1	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2	1	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1	0	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2	2	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	-	0	0	-	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	0	0	-	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other defined and ill- defined diseases	1	3	4	0	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other accidents	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	15	25	13	16	29



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet fever, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, acute pneumonia, dysentery, small pox, encephalitis, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, erysipelas, meningococcal infections, food poisoning and puerperal pyrexia.

In 1955 one case of whooping cough in a girl of 7 was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 2 new cases notified in 1955:-

1. A male of 19 with pulmonary tuberculosis.
2. A female of 60 with involvement of the glands of neck.

There were 3 cases removed from the register, two of these being due to death.

One was a male with pulmonary tuberculosis, notified in 1953 when age 65.

The second was a female with pulmonary tuberculosis, notified in 1953 when age 62.

The third was removed from the register because of recovery and was a man with pulmonary tuberculosis, notified in 1951 when age 16.

There were 24 cases on the register at the end of the year.

General Provisions for Health Services in the Area

Ambulance

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone - Machynlleth 158

Sitting car service -- All requests to:-

County Health Office,
NEWTOWN.

Telephone -- Newtown 205

Children's Officer

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948.

The Children's Officer is:-

Mr. S.M. Parsons,
Children's Department,
County Offices, Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 228.

The Children's Reception Home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool.

Telephone - Welshpool 109.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing

The district is served by:-

Nurse M. Jones,
2, Egloria Villas,
Machynlleth.

Telephone - Machynlleth 129.

Health Visiting

The Health Visitor for this district is:-

Miss E. Jones,
Caeuern, Corris.

Telephone - Corris 225

Home Help Service

Home help is available in certain cases on application to the Supervisor:-

Mrs R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

Telephone - Newtown 205.

I would bring to the notice of the Council the invaluable service offered by Home Helps especially in the care of elderly people in their own houses.

Hospitals

The local hospital, the Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital, is controlled by the Mid-Wales Regional Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. In addition to Medical and surgical cases, midwifery cases are also admitted.

Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory service at:-

Cardiganshire General Hospital,
Aberystwyth.

Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

As in previous year the facilities offered by this laboratory have been freely utilised and tribute must be paid to Dr N.V. Sudja and her staff who are always so willing to help with many technical problems.

Maternity and Child Welfare

The County Council is responsible for this service.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Church Hall Machynlleth on the second and fourth Tuesday in each month in the afternoon.

Tuberculosis

The service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician, Dr G.O. Thomas, holds clinics every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Chest Hospital, Machynlleth.

Vaccination

In this district vaccination is carried out by the local General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Lymph for vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from:-

Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Prophylaxis

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the age of nine months to one year, followed by a booster dose when the child goes to school at the age of 5.

The service is carried out by the local General practitioners and by the County Health Service in the Infant Welfare Clinic and in the local school.

In addition to immunisation against diphtheria, protection against whooping cough is also available and may be given with the diphtheria injections. In such cases three injections are given at monthly intervals commencing at about 7 months.

This service is carried out at the infant welfare clinic.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER SUPPLY

During the year a serious water shortage occurred, due to a long period of absolute drought and an extra-ordinary heavy flow of water from the reservoir into town.

This heavy flow of water is mainly due to leakages from the old lead pipes in the town, and this was the subject of a special report during the year.

The Council obtained loan sanction enabling the Council to expend £4,500 upon the total renewal of the water communicating pipes in the town and at the close of the year this work had been commenced.

During the emergency referred to above it became necessary to place the town on an intermittent supply for a period and it was also necessary to supplement the water in the reservoirs by pumping water from Nant Ffrydlan. Steps were taken to ensure purity of supply - the water from Nant Ffrydlan was heavily chlorinated and treated with silicate of soda before being discharged into the reservoirs.

The following are particulars of samples of water taken during the year:-

Town Supply System.

Number of samples taken	-	17
Number found highly satisfactory	-	17

Small supplementary supply system at Maesglas.

Number of samples taken	-	3
Number found highly satisfactory	-	3

Nant Ffrydlan Stream (Source of emergency supply).

Number of samples taken	-	3
Number found unsatisfactory	-	3

Pumping main from Aberffrydlan stream
(Emergency supply to reservoir).

Number of samples taken	-	7
Number found highly satisfactory	-	7

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is nothing of note to warrant special mention - the new disposal works are satisfactory.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

In the previous annual report reference was made to the killing of low grade animals for the purpose of supplying manufacturing quality meat to a Liverpool establishment.

This work continued for some time during the year and the whole of the kill was inspected. The quality of the animals killed was such that detailed examination of each carcase was essential and a high proportion of the cattle were found to be infected with tuberculosis.

This work, although difficult, was done thoroughly and was carried out each day to the exclusion of other duties.

Approximately 34% of the cattle were affected by tuberculosis. The distribution of the tuberculosis followed the pattern of the figures given in the 1954 report. The meat inspection work was regularly carried out throughout the year.

HOUSING.

During the year 116 houses were provisionally scheduled as sub-standard and to be dealt with in the Council's "slum-clearance" programme.

In addition 26 further houses, now derelict or semi-derelict, following the pre-war slum clearance programme, are to be dealt with.

There were no houses being built during the year but site preparation works were in progress during the year on a site for 94 houses at Talmallt.

NUISANCE ETC.

Number of informal notices served	-	44
-----------------------------------	---	----

Analyses:-

Housing Defects	-	12
Sanitary defects	-	18
Nuisances generally	-	6
Camping	-	1
Rodent Control	-	3
Smoke Nuisance	-	1
		44

Number of Statutory Notices served	-	2
------------------------------------	---	---

Analyses:-

Housing Defects	-	2
-----------------	---	---

